

# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

## Final Budget Review

June 14, 2005 – 6:30 p.m.

Conference Room A

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City Council Present: Mayor Sirrell, Assistant Mayor Grasso, Councilors Ferrini, Marchand, Hynes, Reynolds, Whitehouse and St. Laurent

City Council Absent: Councilor Pantelakos

Officials Present: John P. Bohenko, City Manager; Judie Belanger, Finance Director; Andrew Purgiel, Auditor; Gail Cunningham, Accountant; David Moore, Community Development; Dianna Fogarty, Human Resources Director; Peter Torrey, School Business Administrator; Michael Magnant, Police Chief; Dave Young, Deputy Police Chief; Len DiSesa, Police Captain; Dianne Kirby, Deputy City Clerk; Police Commissioners Devine and Kelley; and Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk

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### **I. Call to Order**

At 6:35 p.m., Mayor Sirrell called the work session to order.

Mayor Sirrell said she received a call from Governor Lynch and he advised her that he would not veto House Bill 616 regarding Education Funding. She said she would like the City Council to agree via consensus to concur with the Senate's version of the House Bill to avoid a Committee of Conference. She advised the City Council under House Bill 616 the City of Portsmouth would no longer be a donor town.

The City Council by consensus agreed to support House Bill 616.

### **II. Introduction**

City Manager Bohenko said the City Council has before them Option A that was agreed upon by consensus at the May 24, 2005 work session. He read a letter from Councilor Pantelakos because she was unable to attend the meeting this evening. In the letter she indicates if the Police Chief has no control over the number of people on a shift due to police contracts she would support the 5.5% increase for the Police Department which has been a guideline since the January Joint Budget Committee meeting. She also addressed her opposition to hiring a police prosecutor or any additional personnel at this time. She said we should contract the police prosecutor out at a minimal cost to the City. She said if we add a new attorney or any other new position, it would probably change her vote on the budget.

Councilor Reynolds said that Councilor Pantelakos needs to be made aware that the Police Chief does have control over the number of officers on a shift.

Councilor Marchand said everyone received his information regarding overtime costs in the Police Department. He said it is the decision of each Councilor to agree or disagree with his memorandum.

Councilor Hynes said the response by the Police Department to Councilor Marchand's memorandum convinced him that the department needs the 5.5% increase in order to provide the level of service the community has become accustomed to.

Councilor St. Laurent said he is firm on sticking to a 4% increase for all departments in the City.

Assistant Mayor Grasso said she read Councilors Marchand and Reynolds memorandum and the response of the Police Department. She said the work involved does show that the Council may need to review some facets of the Police Department. She said she will support the 5.5% increase but would like Councilors Marchand and Reynolds and the Police Department to get together and discuss their concerns.

Councilor Whitehouse said he would like to reduce the Capital Improvement Plan by \$200,000.00 which reflects a \$.7 savings on the budget.

City Manager Bohenko said he would like the Capital Improvement Plan funding to remain as presented. He said if the City Council would like to reduce the Capital Improvement Plan he would provide his priorities to the Council for their consideration. He said that there have been cuts to the Capital Improvement Plan over the last two years, therefore he would request that the funding be approved as presented.

Councilor Whitehouse said he would like a consensus of the City Council to see if they are in favor of reducing the Capital Improvement Plan.

Councilor Reynolds thanked the Police Department for the report and said there is a great deal that he agrees with in the report. He said there were items in the report that were not applicable to the memorandum from him and Councilor Marchand. He said he appreciates the great work of the Police Department. He advised the City Council that he maintains that the Police Department can function with a 4% increase.

The City Council, on a 6-2 consensus expressed support for the Capital Improvement Plan as presented by City Manager Bohenko. Councilors Whitehouse and St. Laurent voted opposed.

The City Council, on a 4-4 consensus expressed support for a 5.5% increase for the Police Department. Councilor Pantelakos did express support of the 5.5% increase for the Police Department in her letter to the City Council dated June 14, 2005. Councilors Marchand, Reynolds, Whitehouse and St. Laurent voted opposed.

Councilor Marchand left the meeting at 7:00 p.m. He did express his support for all other budgets prior to leaving the meeting.

City Manager Bohenko said in terms of the prosecutor position nothing will be done without agreement of the City Council. He said he would like to analyze this matter further and come back to the City Council with a recommendation. He advised the City Council that our outside contract for this service has a 90-day escape clause. He said that on July 1<sup>st</sup> he would get additional help for the Police Department for the prosecutor position.

Councilor Reynolds spoke in support of the additional prosecutor and said it is money well spent.

City Manager Bohenko said that we currently have a contract with the County Attorney's office for 1.5 prosecutors and the additional \$46,000 would allow for two prosecutors assigned to the City from the County Attorney's Office. City Manager Bohenko said he would come back after July 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss this matter further because he feels it is important that Councilor Pantelakos and City Attorney Sullivan be present for the discussion.

The City Council, on a 5-2 consensus expressed support for a 5.2% increase for the Municipal Departments. Councilors Whitehouse and St. Laurent voted opposed.

The City Council, on a 5-2 consensus expressed support for a 5.5% increase for the Fire Department. Councilors Whitehouse and St. Laurent voted opposed.

The City Council, on a 5-2 consensus expressed support for a 5.9% increase for the School Department. Councilors Whitehouse and St. Laurent voted opposed.

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council that Option A reflects a \$17.67 tax rate and there will be six Budget Resolutions on for adoption at the June 20, 2005 City Council meeting.

Councilor St. Laurent advised the City Council that he might not be present for the meeting Monday evening, however he would like the opportunity to vote on the budget.

City Manager Bohenko said if Councilor St. Laurent is not present the City Council could vote to table adoption of the budget and schedule a special meeting for June 27, 2005.

#### **IV. Adjournment**

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Sirrell closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, City Clerk